

Coventry Fire District

February 17, 2015

Minutes

1 Call to order by Chairman Frank Palin

2. Emergency Evacuation Procedures were reviewed by Chairman Frank Palin

3. Roll call was taken. Present were John D'Onofrio, Frank Palin, Sam Rachiele, Brenda Raposo and John Cook

4. John Cook led Pledge to the Flag

5. A motion was made by Sam Rachiele and seconded by John D'Onofrio to move to Executive Session reason pursuant to RIGL 42-26-4

Interview candidates for Tax Collector/Clerk

Discuss/Select candidate for the job

Discuss and determine compensation package

A vote was taken resulting in 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

6. Chairman Frank Palin called the Public Session to order.

7. A motion was made by John D'Onofrio and seconded by John Cook to seal the Executive Session minutes. No votes were taken.

8. A motion was made by John Cook and seconded by Ms. Raposo to merge the Tax Collector and clerk position to a full time position. A vote was taken resulting in 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

9. Mr. Palin moves onto new business. Mr. Palin asks Deputy Chief Warren on surplus vehicles.

10. Deputy Chief Warren stated the water pump on a truck is in need of repair at an estimated cost of \$5,000 - \$10,000 – no guarantee it can be fixed. John D'Onofrio asks if there is a need for the truck. Deputy Chief Warren states there is a need for reserve purposes. John D'Onofrio asks Deputy Chief Warren if there is any issues with borrowing a truck from a neighboring district. Deputy Chief Warren goes onto discuss other districts reserve trucks. John D'Onofrio asks Deputy Chief Warren what the trucks value is. Deputy Chief Warren states that it can't be sold as a piece of fire apparatus, it must be sold as a collector's item/antique truck. John D'Onofrio inquires how many months the truck has been out of order and how many times a truck from out of district has been needed. Deputy Chief Warren stated the truck has been out of commission for the last 3 months and only a couple of times a truck was needed from out of district.

11. A motion was made by John D'Onofrio and seconded by Sam Rachiele to repair the water pump on the truck. A vote was taken resulting in 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

12. The two other surplus vehicles are discussed. Deputy Chief Warren states the 2014 Tahoe just came back from being fixed from a battery recall. It has 38,000 miles on it. The 2005 Escape the Fire Marshall utilizes has 150,000 miles on it. Mr. Palin discusses tabling any further discussion on the surplus vehicles until the next regular scheduled meeting.

13. Mr. Palin suggests setting up a meeting with Mr. Krekorian and the new hire to come up with a structure on purchasing guidelines and procedures.

14. Mr. Palin discusses the expenditures in the budget. He has sent letters to National Grid and Kent County Water Authority trying to confirm ownership on street lights and fire hydrants. No progress has been made. Ms. Raposo inquires about the interest being paid on the ladder and rescue. It is believed to be 6.9%. Discussed looked for a better interest rate.

15. Mr. Cook inquired about fueling costs. Can't use the town pumps because it is a different diesel. They shop around for the best price

prior to fill up.

16. Mr. D'Onofrio inquired about getting real aggressive in tax collections. There is \$300,000 in unpaid taxes. Looking to recover \$250,000 towards the budget. Letters were sent out to the tax payers. It accounts for 15% of the budget.

17. Rescue Recovery Money – money received would help the bottom line.

18. By the Union agreeing to use the Inter Local Trust, its saves the district \$8,000.

19. Not paying Chief Labaddia for six months saves the district \$38,500.

20. Annual Meeting Savings – overall saving \$1800. Switching the meetings to the school and not having to rent a PA system contributed to the savings.

21. Septic System Repair and Vent Repair. – Mr. Palin would like to write a grant to the Champlain Foundation (March 1 – April 30) requesting for a grant to make the necessary repairs. Grants are announced in May. Mr. Palin would also like to have repairs done to the Tax Assessor's Office to reopen it. Mr. Cook inquired about the timeline on fixing the vent system. It is already past due and the

union has made concessions two times already. There is no timeline on the septic being fixed. Quotes are needed on fixing the septic system.

22. Audit – Ms. Reposo inquired if it needed to be completed. It is mandated by the state to take place every year.

23. To date found a \$130,000 in savings, looking to save another \$302,000. Not paying the street lights and hydrants at present time. 73% of the budget goes to the CBA and 15% of the budget is what is used for operational purposes. Going to contact Mr. Gorman to begin negotiations

24. Mr. D’Onofrio said Tim Williamson and Chief Labbadia were looking into the assessment of Anthony Mills. There is a possibility of \$10,000 in tax revenue from it.

25. \$4,000 paid for the investigative report into Chief Labbadia.

26. Line of Credit - \$92,000 owed and it is locked. Would like to pay \$40,000 on it.

27. Deputy Chief Warren inquired about purchasing a new set of gear (\$2500). It is in budget to replace it.

28. A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. D’Onofrio and seconded by Mr. Cook. A vote was taken resulting in 5 in favor and 0 opposed.